

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6233

BILL NUMBER: HB 1052

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 1, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Paramedic Licensing.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Brown T

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill establishes the Paramedic Board (PB) to license paramedics instead of the certification of paramedics by the Emergency Medical Services Commission (EMSC). The bill sets qualifications and requirements for a licensed paramedic. The bill makes it a Class B misdemeanor to practice as a paramedic without a license. The bill grandfathers in certain requirements and makes conforming changes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary:* The EMSC should experience a reduction in administrative responsibilities. If paramedics were licensed by the proposed PB, the administrative reduction to the EMSC would be offset by increased administrative expenditures for the Professional Licensing Agency (PLA). The bill does not specify any compensation for members' service to the PB. The bill does not make an appropriation to cover the cost of licensure by the PB. Therefore, in lieu of any additional appropriations, the PLA would have to implement this provision within its existing level of resources.

Professional Licensing Agency: The PLA would provide the administrative staff to the PB. Whether the PLA requires additional staff would depend on the number of applicants for the license and the workload of PLA staff with existing professional boards and commissions. An additional COMOT III to process licenses would require \$37,374 in expenditures during FY 2010. The amount includes salary, fringes, and indirect costs associated with establishing the position.

Background Information- The PLA reverted \$514,160 at the close of FY 2008. As of November 24, 2008, the PLA had one vacancy with salary worth \$40,950. However, recent reversions have been minimal due to the addition of several new boards and commissions, which currently total 39.

Explanation of State Revenues: Summary: There were 1,824 certified paramedics at the end of 2007, according to the *DHS Annual Report 2007*. As an example only, a \$100 licensing fee, which is similar to certain other health professions, multiplied by 1,800 paramedics would generate \$180,000. All revenue from licensing would depend on the fee established by the PB and the number of license applicants. Paramedic licensure fees would be deposited in the state General Fund. Revenue collection from fees may not be immediate, as existing certified paramedics would be granted a two-year “grace period” to continue practicing before obtaining a license to practice.

Penalty Provision: An unlicensed person knowingly or intentionally practicing as a paramedic or using the title “licensed paramedic” would commit a Class B misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

Civil Penalty: The PB would be able to impose a civil penalty of up to \$500 for any licensed paramedic who commits an act or makes an omission constituting gross negligence arising from practice as a paramedic. Civil penalties collected under this provision would be placed in the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Penalty Provision: A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail.

Explanation of Local Revenues: Penalty Provision: If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

State Agencies Affected: PLA; EMSC under the DHS.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: *Indiana Department of Homeland Security Annual Report 2007*, Indiana State Budget Agency: *General and Rainy Day Fund Summaries, June 30, 2008*.

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